

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00  
NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 SS-15 SP-02 PM-05  
JUSE-00 PA-01 L-03 /051 W  
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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7249  
INFO AMEMBASSY SUVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 09607

E.O. XGDS-L  
TAGS: GN UK US  
SUBJECT: GILBERT ISLANDS

REF: (A) LONDON 8933, (B) LONDON 9488

1. USG ATTITUDE ON GILBERT ISLANDS HAS CLEARLY UPSET FCO. FOLLOWING UP ON FCO ASSISTANT UNDERSECRETARY MURRAY'S PHONE CALL TO DCM (REFTEL B), EMBOFF CALLED ON MURRAY TO RECEIVE LATTER'S FURTHER EXPATiation JUNE 16. MURRAY WAS ACTING ON BASIS OF A TELEGRAM FROM THE BRITISH EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON REPORTING THAT ACCORDING TO DEPT. OFFICERS THERE IS NO PROSPECT OF MAKING THE US POSITION PAPER ON THE GILBERTS READY BY JUNE 20, NOR COULD THERE BE ANY GUARANTEE THAT US SIDE WOULD BE READY TO NEGOTIATE BY JULY. MURRAY, NOTING THAT DEPT. OFFICER HAD SAID THERE WOULD BE NO PROBLEM FOR THE DEPT. TO RECEIVE A DELEGATION FOR "EXPLORATORY TALKS" IN JULY, SAID SUCH TALKS WOULD BE BETTER THAN NOTHING. HOWEVER, IF THEY ARE NOT HELD UNTIL JULY IT WOULD MEAN THAT THE GILBERTESE DELEGATION WOULD HAVE TO MAKE A SPECIAL TRIP FROM THE GILBERTS TO WASHINGTON RATHER THAN CONTINUING ON FROM LONDON. MURRAY ASKED WHAT THE GILBERTESE WOULD GET OUT OF SUCH EXPLORATORY TALKS; THEY HAVE HAD THEM  
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WITH US BEFORE, AND WHAT THEY WANT NOW IS TO NEGOTIATE AN AGREEMENT.

2. MURRAY CONTINUED THAT WHAT PARTICULARLY WORRIES HMG IS THE EXPECTED BAD REACTION OF THE GILBERTESE TO THE POSTPONEMENT OF THE TALKS THE LATTER HAD PLANNED FOR THE LAST WEEK IN JUNE. UP UNTIL NOW HMG HAS KEPT

THE GILBERTESE CALM. MURRAY ASSERTED THAT THE LATTER HAD BROADLY ACCEPTED THE US POSITION WITHOUT PREJUDICE FOR EITHER SIDE TO EXISTING US CLAIMS TO THREE ISLANDS. IF NEXT WEEK THE BRITISH HAVE TO TELL THE GILBERTESE DELEGATION THAT THE US NOT ONLY DOES NOT HAVE A TIME TABLE FOR NEGOTIATIONS BUT HAS EVEN CHANGED ITS WHOLE POSITION, THE GILBERTESE MAY BECOME SO ANGRY THEY MIGHT GO PUBLIC AND START DENOUNCING "US COLONIALIST ATTITUDES IN THE PACIFIC".

3. ACCORDINGLY, MURRAY URGED THIS EMBASSY TO PRESS THE DEPARTMENT A) TO PRODUCE A POSITION PAPER BEFORE THE END OF JUNE AND B) TO PRODUCE A FIRM INVITATION TO THE GILBERTESE FOR SUBSTANTIVE NEGOTIATIONS - NOT JUST EXPLORATORY TALKS - ON A SPECIFIC DATE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE

4. COMMENT: MURRAY HAS BEEN QUITE VEHEMENT WITH US ON THIS ISSUE. THE BRITISH HAVE BEEN MOTIVATED IN THESE APPROACHES IN PART BY THEIR DESIRE TO SAVE US FROM WHAT THEY ANTICIPATE WILL BE UNPLEASANT CONSEQUENCES FOR OUR OWN POSITION.

BREWSTER

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** ISLAND CLAIMS, NEGOTIATIONS, TERRITORIAL CLAIMS  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
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**TAGS:** PDEV, PGOV, GN, UK, US  
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